

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1. A folding bag comprising, in combination:

a generally rectangular parallelepiped container having at least five sides including a flexible material, generally rectangular bottom side having four corners, a front side, a back side spaced from the front side, a first lateral end side and a second lateral end side spaced from the first end side, said sides joined by flexible junctures to enable said lateral, front and back sides to be folded relative to each other, said bottom side including a diagonal slit extending between non-adjacent corners and a material connection device for joining the sides of the slit; and

a generally rigid panel generally congruent in size and shape with the bottom side, said rigid panel flexibly attached along a seam between the bottom side and one of the other sides of the bag whereby the rigid panel may be folded against the bottom side to maintain the bottom side configured in a rectangular shape, and pivotal about the seam from the bottom side to enable collapsible folding of the bag.

2. The bag of claim 1 wherein the material connecting device in the bottom side comprises a zipper.

3. The bag of claim 1 wherein at least one of said front side, back side, first end side and second end side is generally a rigid side.

4. The bag of claim 1 wherein said front side, back side, first end side and second end side are generally rigid.

5. The bag of claim 1 further including a top side attached by a flexible hinge to one of the sides.

6. The bag of claim 1 further including a top side attached by a flexible hinge to the backside.

7. The bag of claim 6 including a latching device for attaching the top side to the front side.

8. The bag of claim 1 wherein the rigid panel is attached by a flexible hinge to the seam between the back side and bottom side.

9. The bag of claim 1 wherein the rigid panel comprises a panel member encased within a fabric sleeve.